

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCUNC

UNC REAR CAMP ZAMA JA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217736

FOL RPT TOKYO 14870 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CANBERRA & SEOUL
DTD 17 AUG 78

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14870

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, KS, AS

SUBJECT: UN COMMAND REAR

1. IN COURSE OF CALL ON AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD BY AUSTRALIAN
AMBASSADOR MENADUE, ARRANGED AT LATTER'S REQUEST, AMBASSADOR
MANSFIELD ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN
UN COMMAND REAR, NOTING THAT BRITISH OFFICER ASSIGNED TO
UNCR HAD DEPARTED LAST MONTH. WHILE WE WERE FORTUNATE
THAT THIRD-COUNTRY PRESENCE HAD BEEN MAINTAINED BY UNEX-
PECTED ASSIGNMENT OF PHILIPPINE OFFICER, AMBASSADOR
MANSFIELD OBSERVED THAT MORE REGULARIZED AND PREDICTABLE
SYSTEM FOR MAINTAINING THIRD-COUNTRY PRESENCE SEEMED
ADVISABLE. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ASSIGN OFFICER
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WHO IN FACT SPENT TIME IN LANGUAGE TRAINING AT FSI SCHOOL
IN YOKOHAMA. OFFICER'S UNCR DESIGNATION WOULD NOT IMPINGE
HEAVILY UPON HIS STUDIES, AND JAPANESE WOULD NOT QUESTION
ARRANGEMENT. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT EVENTUALLY SOME SORT
OF COMMONWEALTH ROTATION MIGHT BE CONSIDERED, WITH
CANADIAN AND PERHAPS UK AND NEW ZEALAND PARTICIPATION.

2. AMBASSADOR MENADUE SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH PROBLEM, RECALLING DISCUSSIONS LAST SPRING IN ANTICIPATION OF BRITISH OFFICER'S DEPARTURE. HE OBSERVED THAT NONCOMMITAL GOA ATTITUDE REFLECTED DIVERGENCE OF OPINION WITHIN GOVERNMENT, WITH DEFENSE RECOGNIZING BENEFITS OF PRESERVING UN SOFA AND RECOMMENDING PARTICIPATION, WHILE MOFA WAS WARY OF POSSIBLE EFFECTS UPON RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. MENADUE SAID HIS EMBASSY FAVORED AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION AND HAD SO RECOMMENDED. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT CANBERRA HAD RECEIVED IMPRESSION LAST TIME AROUND THAT U.S. "WAS NOT PUSHING VERY HARD," AND SUGGESTED THAT THIS HAD CONTRIBUTED TO GOA INDECISION. MENADUE SAID HE WOULD CONVEY OUR MESSAGE TO CANBERRA, BUT THOUGHT CHANCES OF FAVORABLE ACTION WOULD BE MUCH ENHANCED IF THERE WERE DIRECT USG APPROACH TO GOA IN CANBERRA. MANSFIELD UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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